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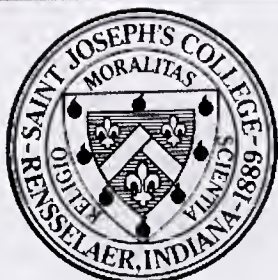
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Composting for the Future

New Sustainability Club compost efforts on campus make an important impact.

By MaryKate Hresil
News Writer

If you've been eating lately, you have noticed something new going on by the conveyor belt in the cafeteria. We now have a place to scrape our excess foods and trash before sending the dishes off to the kitchen for washing. What's this for? The Sustainability Club created a composting system on our campus in order to keep garbage out of drains in the kitchen and landfills. After meals, the recyclable foods are taken out to a four by four box in the back of the cafeteria by the dumpsters. Not only are the used student foods taken, but the leftover food that the cafeteria makes is as well. Every layer of food is covered with woodchips. The wood chips act as an agent to help bacteria breakdown and decompose the food and keep away the smell. Once the box is full, it is taken out by the garden shed. In approximately three to four months, the new dirt is compound

usable. In other words, it is ready for use again, healthy with all sorts of nutrients that make the ground happy.

And the results thus far have been amazing. Approximately one hundred and thirty pounds of food are scraped from the plates and put into the box on a daily basis. The extra cafeteria food has ranged from one hundred pounds to two hundred and fifty pounds, leaning more towards the heavy end regularly. So, on a daily basis at least three hundred pounds are saved from landfills.

The reactions from the cafeteria employees have been nothing but positive. Things are running much smoother and faster now that they do not have to scrape every plate that comes through the conveyor belt before putting them into the washer. There have also been improvements in the drainage system. Before, the drains were cleaned once a week. Now that we are scraping, though, it is a rarely done.

Student reactions were at first somewhat negative. In the beginning, students complained about the time it took. However, it has become such a habit that many do not even notice. Furthermore, some students are excited about the change. To them, it feels good to finally be doing something, no matter how small, to help out the environment.

The compost system is managed by Student Sodexo employees, Sustainability interns, and students working on their community service. At every meal, someone is there reminding students to scrape their plates or after meals to take the compost materials to the box.

Sophomore Sustainability Intern and Forensic Science major Emily Baird wants to extend a message of appreciation to the students, saying "Keep up the



Right: Junior Elementary Education major and Sustainability Intern Natalie Gouwens weighs the days' compost in the cafeteria. Compost is weighed daily. Photo Courtesy Randee Porteus.

good work because it's really making a difference."

SJC Theatre Kicks Off Semester With *The Glass Menagerie*

Four-man play, though more serious than usual fare, is a big hit on campus.

By Shannon Kiley
News Writer

Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* came to life last weekend on the St. Joseph's College stage. The show, which takes place in a St. Louis apartment during the Great Depression, ran last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Director John Rahe chose this drama in conjunction with the Columbian Players because it has been a number of years since such a serious production has been put on. In addition, this show features a cast of only four characters, which made the short rehearsal schedule easier to work with. The cast had only three weeks prior to Christmas Break and three weeks after to transform the script into a show. This condensed schedule required extreme commitment and focus on the part of the cast: Senior Biology major Ken



Scofield (Tom Wingfield), Senior English Creative Writing major Olivia Markwalder (Amanda Wingfield), Junior Mass Communication major Alycia Tassone (Laura Wingfield) and Junior English major Tanner Brunson (Jim O'Connor).

The play, narrated by Tom,

Right: Scofield and Markwalder, two of the four-man cast, rehearse a scene the night before the play opens. This was a big performance for both Seniors, who will be graduating this May. Photo courtesy Anthony Majewski.

tells the story of his family and their struggles – and why he came to leave them just like his father before him. His sister Laura is painfully shy and spends all of her time listening to old records and marveling at her glass collection, but their mother Amanda is set on finding a gentleman to court her. Amanda's constant criticisms of Tom put the two at odds with one another and after the fourth character – a gentleman caller for Laura – enters the picture, Tom is eventually brought to the breaking point that results in an explosive climax.

The story is "from the era of theater when we were coming out of realism," said director

John Rahe. The show has aspects of realism, for example real furniture, but the entire story is from Tom Wingfield's memory. This presented a challenge for senior Theatre Art and Religion-Philosophy major stage manager, Zach Conrad. "The entire play is based on one character's memory. To achieve this we used a diverse array of colors, we had walls that were deconstructed and old—like a faded memory." Scofield and Markwalder closed their theatrical careers at St. Joseph's with this show. "It's been a mix of emotions, bittersweet. I'm happy because I managed to end my theatrical experience at St. Joseph's with an American classic," commented Scofield. "It truly is an emotionally invigorating and beautifully crafted play, and I am deeply honored to have been given this opportunity."

Students Go Abroad to Learn

Winterim trips offer unique learning experiences for SJC students

By Mike Sosnowski
News Writer

As you all know St. Joseph's College decided to do something a little different this year: the college introduced a new program known as Winterim. While this meant that most of us got to enjoy an extra week of winter break, for a lucky few it meant traveling overseas.

Embarking on a two and half week journey, several students as well as three faculty members visited China, Ethiopia, and the Virgin Islands. Each trip earned the student participants course credits for courses such as Core 7 and 8 and International Business. Every student got a unique experience of not only the world but also a way to learn.

While the price tag may have deterred some, there were those that had the initiative to see it

through. And while some of them were able to pay out of pocket, many others used fundraising. Regardless of how they paid for it, everyone took a great deal from their trips.

Junior Elementary Education Major Austin Farney was one of those who journeyed to Ethiopia. She went to Africa to cover her Core 7 requirements. She said she "loved giraffes and always wanted to see them, but unfortunately there were no giraffes in Ethiopia." All the same she said she got a lot out of the trip visiting the capital Addis Ababa as well as several tribal villages in the south. And while she says that some of the places were rather westernized, those that weren't were the most interesting.

English professor April Toadvine had similar things to say about her trip to China. She said that along the way the students got a language lesson as well as

the opportunity to visit a college. She also noted that while Beijing might not have been the most interesting, Hong Kong more than made up for it with its unique mixture of the East and West. She says perhaps the most unexpected thing about the trip was just how cold it was. She described it as "take your skin off kind of cold."

A point to note is that while the groups may have ventured worlds apart, their trips had many things in common. They each found visiting schools in the regions extremely interesting. Likewise they said it was a completely new way to experience learning, especially regarding the Core Program. While the students there may have had to journal during the trips, discussions occurred naturally as the trips progressed. In all ways, the groups said they would like to go back.



Above: The China Winterim group poses for a photo while on their trip. Photo courtesy of Marisa Mangas.

St. Joseph's College Represented in March for Life

Students march on Washington for their beliefs

By Allison Stanton
Guest Writer

On January 25th, a group of passionate students represented St. Joseph's College at the 38th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The March for Life is the largest continual peaceful protest in the United States, which is expanding at a rapid rate. St. Joseph's College went on the trip through the Illiana Right to Life committee, with the event planned by junior Music major Gayle Arend. "The school's motto is 'involved for life,' so it only seems fitting for us to represent the unborn for their right to life in this country," said junior Theatre Arts and Religion-Philosophy major Zach Conrad.

Within the march, many different pro-life students and pro-life supporters from across the nation joined together,

regardless of their religious affiliation, for the repeal of Roe v. Wade. Roe v. Wade, one of the most controversial Supreme Court decisions in the nation, legalizes abortion. Since the law was passed, over 56 million abortions have been performed in the United States. Everyone that participated in the march this year made a record-breaking crowd of an estimated half a million people. "Every year, I see more and more Saint Joe's students are involved with the march," senior History major James Bertucci said, "I think our numbers might even double next year!"

The representative students from St. Joseph's College marched and protested alongside a large group of pro-life supporters from St. John Cantius parish in Chicago. With such creative, attention-drawing

peaceful protests such as chants and hand-crafted drums, the large group of approximately 350 pro-life supporters certainly made their presence known. With the intent of making life a priority in this country, the path of the march began after the rallies on the National Mall and followed its route to Constitution Avenue, then to the Supreme Court building on Capitol Hill. The group from St. Joseph's College and the supporters from St. John Cantius took a visible spot in front of the Senate Office building in order to make their presence known.

After the march had completed, the group including St. Joseph's College pro-life supporters knelt down in front of the Capitol Building for prayer. Junior Music major Erich Fischer said "The most beneficial thing about going to the march

was being a part of a cause that is much larger than myself, especially when we got to the top of the hill. There was just a tidal wave of pro-life supporters." As St. Joseph's College continues

to be represented in the March for Life, the pro-life support is expected to increase in order to petition for the repeal of Roe v. Wade.

Kairos: An SJC Tradition

By Haley Brausch
News Writer

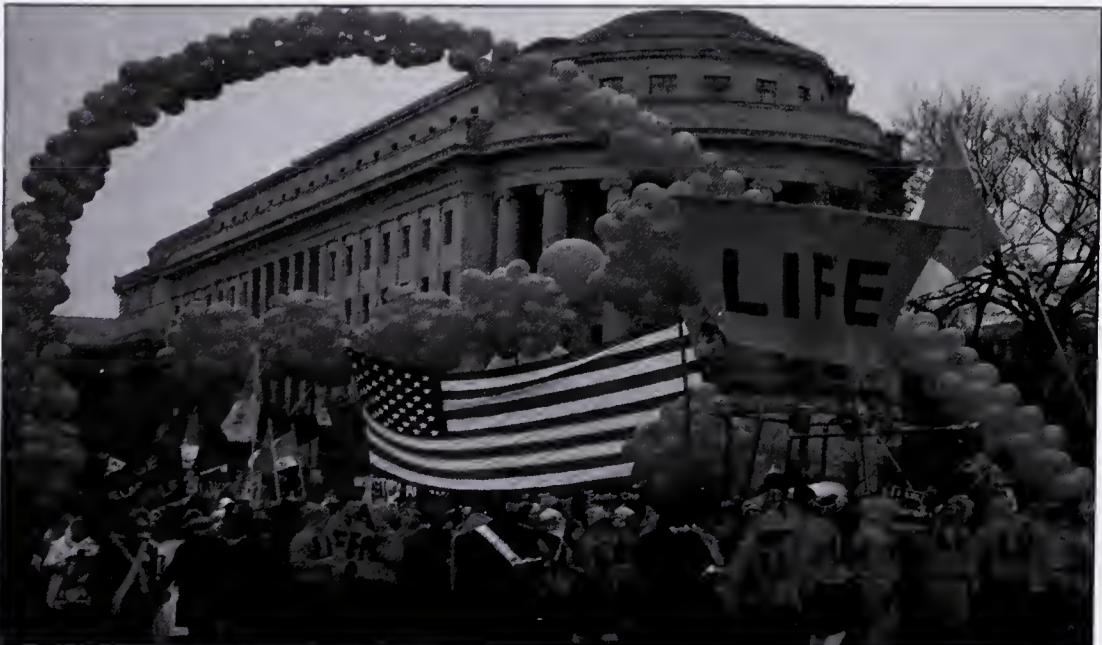
Some of you might have never heard of the Kairos retreats that happen three times a year. Others may have been on one of the retreats yourself or known a friend who has gone. They are extremely inspirational and I personally think that every student should participate in at least one during their career as a St. Joseph's Puma. Kairos is a four day long retreat that take place off campus in the fall, winter, and spring. The retreat is sponsored by Campus Ministry and run by Brother Tim Hemm. It is one of the three most important retreats sponsored by Campus Ministry, the other two being the Busy Student Retreat and the Camping Retreat.

Kairos is a bit of a different experience, though. I just went on the Kairos 63 retreat in January and it was one of the best experiences of my life. Though it is sponsored by Campus Ministry, you do not have to be any particular religion to go on this trip and you do not really even need to know how you feel about God. The weekend will teach you more about God or if you want to strengthen your relationship

with Him. The weekend focuses on you personally as well and helps you find yourself through God in the way that you are the most comfortable with. It is an excellent way to get off campus and find yourself amidst all of the schoolwork.

Personally, I had no idea what I was getting myself into when I signed up for this retreat, but I cannot stress enough how glad I am that I went. This was a very good opportunity to meet new people and really get to know them personally. This is not just about going out and doing something different for a change, it is about making memories. I learned a lot about myself on this retreat that I never knew. I realized the type of person I am and the type of person I want to be. Kairos inspired me to discover who I truly am and find out how to live my life accordingly. I highly recommend you go to this retreat from a fun aspect but also from a serious side. There are so many opportunities so why not take advantage with this great retreat with Kairos? I can honestly say that it will be one of the best decisions of your life. For more information contact Brother Tim Hemm at timh@saintjoe.edu.

Below: SJC studnets among many others march towards Capital Hill to protest abortion. Photo courtesy Professor Kelly Ford.



Edible Options?

By MaryKate Hresil
Opinion Writer

I am a big fan of food. I love it, but then again who doesn't? Lately, I've been on a sort of health kick. I'm doing my best to really watch what I eat and get my health back to the way it was before college. Everyone has heard of the dreadful freshman fifteen, honestly I think it might be more like thirty but I'm sure it varies from person to person. Nevertheless, I am working out as hard as I can and watching what I am eating because my health is very important to me.

However, I find that is really hard to do in the cafeteria. For most of my meals you can find me in the Hub ordering a salad with grilled chicken, with pickles,

cucumbers, green peppers, and the occasional egg for extra protein. I don't mean to rag on the cafe, but options seem so much less there. I mean I can only have so many peanut butter sandwiches and hummus before I start to get bored.

On the Saint Joe website there is a link to our weekly meals. Included with the food are the various options we have for vegans, vegetarians, and people looking for carb friendly or well-balanced diets. And it's true that the page is splattered with apple and tomato icons. It seems like there are options, but for some reason whenever I go into the cafeteria it doesn't really feel that way. Maybe it's the temptation of a cheeseburger or the allure of a slice of pepperoni pizza. But I know I do have self-restraint.

I think I would like to just see more options. For instance, grilled chicken. I would eat that up, literally. Or tofu, which given the chance is pretty good when made the right way. I know I've seen it a few times, but I'd like to see it more.

About the cafeteria...

How about something organic? Other than the fruits and some of the vegetables almost our entire cafeteria menu is one hundred percent processed.

My point is, aside from forgetting about it or waiting in the long Hub line, I'd like to see more healthy options in the cafeteria. Do we have all natural options, anything

not preservative filled? This does not only go for me though, there are plenty of other people dieting, eating healthy, or have to watch what they eat for medical reasons. How does Saint Joe



Tis' the Season for Giving Out Our Hearts!

By Victoria Lawson
Opinions Writer

Ladies and Gents it's almost that time of year again. The one day a year where our hearts will swell with love. Some of us will cry tears of joy, some tears of hatred, and lastly we will all know there is that one couple that will make the rest of us hate this day.

It is almost Valentine's day. The only day of the year where overstuffed bears, chocolate filled hearts, and obnoxious public displays of affection are accepted as normal. For those of you who hate your lives on this day I am here to give you some advice. If you've just become newly single go take a listen to Taylor Swift's "We are Never, Ever Getting Back Together." If that is too girly for you give Celo Greens "F*** You" a listen. Also to those of you who are single enjoy having this day

off, there is no point in you being upset. Think of all the money you will be saving and all of the candy you won't have to share! Use your savings to treat yourself! Take the time to do something you either want or deserve.

But for all of you who are in a relationship you are another story. This is the one day a year where you cannot mess up. If you are a male you know that us females will not forgive you if you forget Valentine's Day. Men do something special for your ladies. Take them out for a dinner, go see a movie, and just make the day special for them. And if you can't afford Valentine's Day take your lady to the Hub for some of Alice's charm and a chicken wrap. Also utilize our Puma



movie channel, who knows what is going to be playing. Speaking from experience I would rather see a guy go out of his way to make the day special than for him to fill the day with gifts.

Ladies, you think you can get away with making a cute little scrap book for the day but this is the one time a year where you can be complete mush balls and he won't mind. Tell your significant other how you truly feel but also

make sure you appreciate what they have done for you. Just because you are the girl does not make the holiday solely about you. Treat your guy right. Take the time to do something special for him, something that you would want him to do for you.

The biggest thing to remember this Valentine's Day is appreciate the one you are with (something you should probably do for all the other days of the year too). Remember to treat the one you love special everyday. And for those of you who are waiting for the right one to come along give it time, enjoy being by yourself. Learn how to love yourself. And the biggest thing to remember this year is February 15th! Yes, the day after Valentine's, it's the day when all the candy goes on sale.



January Showers . . . Brings February Flooding

By Matthew Hess
Opinions Writer

In the closing days of January Mother Nature sent some strange weather our way. Not many people in the Midwest can say that in January they were in shorts as they put down salt on sleety sidewalks, but here in Indiana we can. However in that change of weather, lots of rain was dumped on the SJC campus and drainage issues left some students wondering 'I thought that we fixed these issues'.

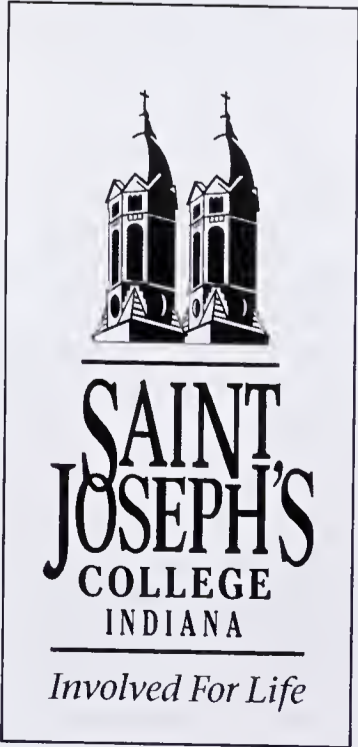
Now granted we aren't talking about building flooding or a car floating away, but it is still an annoying fact of life here on campus. Some students have been inquiring amongst themselves as to whether or not the new drainage system in the IM field is

really doing anything. When there are hard rains, water sits in the field. That is a good point, but I can remember the marsh that was there spring of my freshman year (complete with mattress raft and creping frogs) and I would argue that things are better. The IM field is in a much better state then it was two years ago.

But, there are areas of campus that do need to be looked at. The sidewalks are constantly flooding and any time that it rains it's a pain to get around. It appears that the sidewalks are actually lower than the ground in some places. In front of Gallagher is especially bad because the whole sidewalk can be mistaken for a river if the perfect storm hits. Also, and this is after an attempt to fix it, there is still a puddle over by the side door near Justin East. The puddle

is there almost year round, it's to the point where it is already eating away at the somewhat new cement. Finally a third area that floods is the sidewalk leading to Bennett. Residents have to make the choice to go around or through what is basically the Bennett Moat (That is not to say that Bennett Hall is a castle by any means).

Although I doubt anything will come from this cry, it might be something to take note of. Especially as we ride out the rest of winter. If the high water comes back, and then the temperature drops, like it has been doing, we might be left with something that is not only annoying but also dangerous: ice. I hope, like I think many students do, that a warm spring is fast approaching but until then, stay dry my friends!



We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph's College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

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Wet Your Whistle In The Wettest County in the World

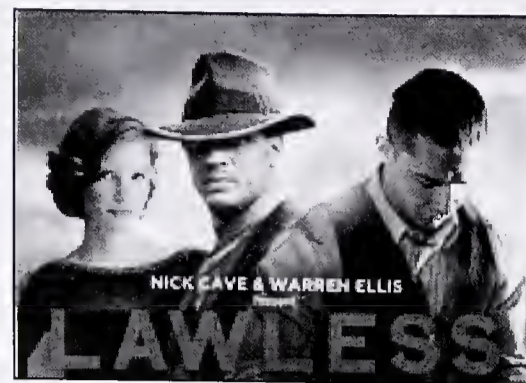
By Nicole Thomsen
Opinions Editor

As a child, Matt Bondurant spent countless hours staring at a pair of old brass knuckles that his grandfather kept in a back room just below his gun. Bondurant liked to envision what they were used for and whom they were used upon. He liked to imagine

his grandfather and great uncles smashing in someone's teeth. Over time, Bondurant found that the truth was just as remarkable and gory as his juvenile fancies. He compiled all these stories, into a thrilling, action packed, semi-historical book, *The Wettest County in the World*. The novel is based on a true story, and it's

also the foundation for the film *Lawless*. For those of you who have seen the film, you may remember Jack, the youngest of the three Bondurant brothers, he was portrayed by Shia Labeouf. The author of this novel is the actual Jack Bondurant's grandson.

In case the title threw you off, the entire book is mainly about moonshine. It's set in the time of prohibition and placed in Franklin County, Virginia. In that region and in that time, it was almost impossible to not be involved in a moonshine conspiracy. The liquor that had been produced was nearly 150 proof, strong enough to melt your organs. The tale is that of three brothers, known as the Bondurant Boys and legend had it that they were invincible. Most of the town and even most of the local law enforcement feared them. Sherwood Anderson is one of the main characters of the book- he's a writer looking for a new story and the Bondurants just might give it to him. The



If you liked the movie *Lawless*, starring Shia Labeouf, then you should read the novel it was based on: *The Wettest County in the World*, the sometimes gruesome, always true, novel about prohibition and moonshine.

novel jumps back and forth between Anderson's story and that of the Bondurant Boys. That is until their paths meet.

Anderson does his best to get people to talk but in the end he just has to face the fact that it's a small town and they don't talk to outsiders. The movie plot is pretty similar to that of the books. Although the film leaves out a lot of the book's detail it nicely captures the feel for each character. For those of you who did enjoy the movie I can personally guarantee you'll love the book. The author can use his

words to gruesomely paint the picture, no matter how gruesome the picture may be. It's hard to take your eyes off the page. While the book may be slow at times, it's a definite page turner. The book shows a lost time. Even a lost way of life. No one says it better than Matt Bondurant himself, "Individuality will pass into the smoky realm of history. The day will come, Anderson knew, when we will all become soldiers in the corporate age."



Paramore To Be Released April, Single Released Now

By Kristina Hemmerling
Features Co-Editor

The first time I ever listened to the band Paramore I was in my youth group my freshman year of high school. My friend Kim came in and was excited to have me listen to this awesome band with this great female singer. She was so pumped. At first I put her off, but she eventually cornered me on the couch in the back room, gave me her iPod Classic, and played the music video for "Misery Business" from Paramore's second album *Riot!* It was a good song and the music video was fun, but I was not nearly as excited as Kim.

Five years and hundreds of listens later, I'd say I'm more of a Paramore fan than Kim. Maybe it took me longer to get interested, but I blame the wrong place and the wrong first song. First impressions are key, after all. "Misery Business," with its heavy guitar and its catchy chorus were not the song meant to make me love Paramore, "Emergency" from their first album *All We Know Is Falling* was. The lyrics are deep with sadness and regret but the guitar still pumps up the listener. I've listened to that song 81, with plenty more on the way.

Since then I've grown a slight obsession with Paramore. I recently went on a Paramore stalking spree and become something of a Paramore historian. I looked up as many interviews and random videos of the band as I could find. After



Here's the album art for the release of the single "Now". The album Paramore has a different, more plain cover. In both cases, the three members are pictured. This cover shows the more artsy side of the band.

more than a year of wondering, I finally found out what had happened to the band since their last album *Brand New Eyes* was released in 2009. There were originally four members to the band: Hayley Williams as lead singer, Josh Farro as lead guitar, Zac Farro as drummer, and Jeremy Davis as the bassist. Then Taylor York, who had been playing in live shows with the band for years, officially joined the band shortly after their 2007 album *Riot!* was released. In December of 2010, after their album that had supposedly healed the band's internal issues, Josh and Zac left the band. They had felt left out and estranged from their band mates for a while and had finally felt like enough was

enough. It was a tough break and the band took a hit, some people even said that Paramore was bound to breakup.

At the very end of 2010, Hayley, Taylor, and Jeremy made it very clear that Paramore was still a band and promised their fans a new album. Two years and four singles later they are finally delivering. The three remaining band members have had a good while to create this masterpiece they have titled *Paramore*, and I must say I am excited.

Paramore isn't due to come out until April 9, but on January 22 the band released their first single from the album, called "Now". From reading reviews and interviews I've heard the band's sound has changed dramatically

since the days of the young fast-paced musings of their first album *All We Know Is Falling*, and even since the well thought out and planned anthems of anger and forgiveness of *Brand New Eyes*, but I must say what I got out of "Now" is not what I was expecting.

Not only does the music sound different- with an electronic undertone, new guitar sound while maintaining fancy hooks that Paramore is known for, and less bass- but Hayley's voice is almost from another planet, not in a bad way mind you. It seems deeper and maybe even more practiced. At the beginning of the song and each time she says the word 'now' her voice is edited or electron-ified in some

way, which is very different for Paramore but it works in the song. If you're expecting the regular old bass-heavy Paramore songs like the fun, young anthem that is "Misery Business" and the punchy, angry, coming of age "Ignorance" you're in for a big surprise. "Now" is an example of Paramore's change in sound. All three members have aged and grown up since the days of *All We Know Is Falling*. Their voices and instruments have aged too- the album *Paramore* looks like it's going to be Paramore's "grown-up" debut.

I will probably always remember listening to "Now" by Paramore for the first time and thinking, "Is that really Hayley singing?" Well it is and Paramore is still a band and is still making awesome music. Based on interviews the band seems super excited about this album's sound, and that makes me excited. After listening to "Now" upwards of twenty times I've found that although Hayley sounds different and there seems to be a noticeable increase of Taylor's guitar, this song still comes from Paramore. It's catchy, got a memorable chorus, and is a song I can listen to over and over and over. "Now" is different from and other Paramore song ever, but I like it. And it's sure got me pumped for April 9.

The Legacy of F.U.N.

By Mike Sosnowski
Features Writer

Most of you will know Fun as that one band that wrote that song with the wailing chorus about being young and on fire. Some of you may actually know them as being the band that also sang “Some Nights.” That’s not saying that you should be ashamed for only knowing those two songs. But, you probably should be because Fun is one of those bands that will instantly make your music library much better. Of course I won’t convince you to listen to them by insulting you, so instead let me explain to you why you need to go and pick up their work.

Fun is described by the internet as an indie pop band. Now I know that sounds like a hipster kind of genre, but don’t let that turn you off. See, Fun has this sound that can only be said to be a mix of the operatic styling of Queen, the progressive pop nature of The Beatles, and vocal

similarities to Foster the People. In other words they have a really great sound, and they’ve been using that to their advantage since they debuted in 2009. Since then they have released two albums: *Aim and Ignite* in 2009 and *Some Nights* in 2012.

Aim and Ignite is the definitive Fun album. It is safe to say that there are no holes here. Every song is unique, though fitting to the tone of the album, and every song is crisp without being over powering. Personally, if I could only have one of the

albums from this band, ever, it would be this one. The highpoint here is definitely the final track, “Take Your Time (Coming Home).” Fun just shines. With a sharp beginning and an impressive finish, this album is fantastic throughout.

Sadly I don’t have quite the same opinion of *Some Nights*. Don’t get me wrong, it’s great, it’s just not as great as *Aim and Ignite*. I do have to say this though- this album is for anyone looking for a modern day Queen. This album is just so operatic, every track being a big dramatic piece. And that is what Fun is best at. So why do I think it’s not as great? Well one word: autotune. There is a lot of it in this one, especially on “Stars.” But I suppose that is something that can be lived with, especially since it has the band’s strongest song yet, “Some Nights.” In all it is a good, but flawed, album.

The point that I’m trying to make here is that Fun is an amazing band. They have great work and great potential. And they will probably be one of those bands that get remembered fifty years from now. So do you want to tell your grandkids you were listening to the best, or just Nicki Minaj?



The members of F.U.N. “Nate Ruess doesn’t really care about traditional structure, tempo, and instrumentation. He doesn’t need to create a memorable, radio-friendly chorus for every song. No, that’s too easy for the former lead singer of The Format. He much prefers throwing in gospel choirs, swing beats, swelling violins and pulsing drums wherever he pleases, not necessarily where the song requires it. He likes to mix it up, play around a bit. He likes to have fun.” (<http://prettymuchamazing.com/music/fun-aim-and-ignite-album-review>)

Spec Ops: The Line Review

By Alex Yong
Guest Writer

In many ways, one could argue that the reason we play video games is to live out a fantasy that would be impossible or difficult to achieve in real life, and to live out that fantasy with none of the consequences. *Spec Ops: The Line*, deconstructs the former, and throws out the latter on its head, and curb stomps it, a la *American History X*.

Taking a page from the novella *Heart of Darkness* and the film *Apocalypse Now*, *Spec Ops: The Line* is set in Dubai after sandstorms of apocalyptic portions have destroyed the city. The game is set weeks after an evacuation attempt of the Dubai fails miserably, and the city and the 33rd, the US Army Battalion sent in, are believed to be lost. A looped radio transmission is picked up from the city, so the military sends in a three-man Delta Force. Their mission is simple, find out what happened, then radio for evac. The player takes up the role of Captain Martin Walker, the leader of the squad.

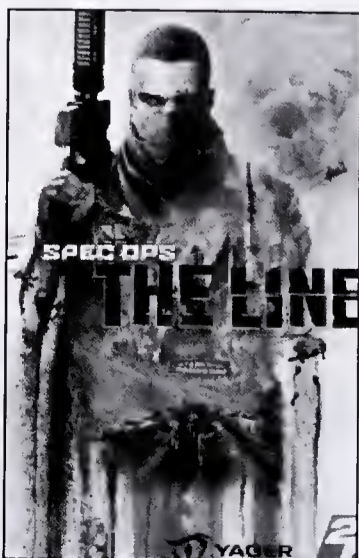
Spec Ops: The Line starts off in the first few scenes seeming like yet another stereotypical cover-based modern warfare shooter with hard-as-nails spec-ops soldiers fighting the Evil Brown People™. Early in the game however, the player finds remnants of the 33rd. Instead of being greeted with open arms however, the squad is greeted by a hail of gunfire, forcing the squad to fire upon American soldiers. As the squad presses on,

they learn more and more on what happened in the city before their arrival.

As stated before, the game is a massive deconstruction of the war shooter. There are no clear-cut good guys and bad guys in the game, as all the factions involved have their share of atrocities and are all well-intentioned. The characters of the game are visibly affected by what they see and do in Dubai. At the beginning of the game, the characters play and act like your typical “friendly” characters in any modern warfare shooter. As the game goes on however, the horrors of war and their effects on the characters souls become more and more obvious. Walker’s commands to his squad change from stern but professional at the beginning of the game, to more tense towards the middle, to full-on psychotic at the end. Melee attacks change

from quick and “painless” mercy kills at the beginning of the game, to full on sadistic attacks, which involve Walker kneecapping foes before finally executing them, repeatedly bashing their faces with a butt of a rifle, or breaking their necks, all the while they scream and beg for mercy. Even the game’s loading screen tips become disturbing as the game goes on. They change from the standard tips (Press X to throw a grenade) to quotations that attack the player and question his or her morality. The endings are just as dark, if not darker, and without spoiling too much, I’ll say that every one of them, even the one that is considered to be the “happiest”, for lack of a better term, left me in silence when the game credits rolled.

Gameplay wise, the game plays like any other shooter. There are the standard cover mechanics, regenerating health, the game involves killing large group after group of enemies to proceed to the next location in the game. My one complaint is that this gameplay does become repetitive after awhile with each battle playing out just like the last. However, *Spec Ops* is arguably not meant to be played for the gameplay, but rather the story and the message that it delivers. War is hell; not a game or a fantasy, and one cannot cause destruction and mayhem without any consequences. Every “morality” action the Walker does in the game comes back to haunt him horribly as the game presses on, until he is only a shell of his former self, with no soul or ounce of decency left in him.



“The Line is a gripping, at time harrowing, and unforgettable experience.” (Hyper Magazine)

Corpse Bride Review

By Hannah Ramey
Features Writer



Tim Burton refuses to let stop animation fade away! Burton brought stop-animation back with *Nightmare* in 1993.

There are many great movie directors, but Tim Burton has always held a special place in my heart. He has created many masterpieces, such as *Sweeney Todd*, *The Headless Horseman*, and *Edward Scissorhands*. He also produced the Disney masterpiece *The Nightmare before Christmas*. Burton has crafted some amazing movies thus far in his career, yet some do not get the recognition they deserve. Tim Burton’s *The Corpse Bride* is easily one of his best movies, for several marvelous reasons.

The Corpse Bride is a wonderful Claymation film, revolving around protagonist Victor, his arranged fiancé Victoria, and the lovely corpse bride Emily. It begins with Victor rehearsing his wedding vows for fiancé Victoria for their upcoming wedding. He feels as though he can love her, even though it is arranged, and she feels the same. While practicing

his vows, he manages to propose to the corpse of Emily, a young woman murdered by her previous lover. From there, he is whisked away to the magical world of the dead! Victoria, feeling abandoned, fears she will have to marry the horrid Lord Barkis, who is only interested in her money, while Victor begins to fall for the Corpse Bride. A mingling of the living and the dead ensues in this wonderful movie, mixing a touching story with amazing details.

Though this movie is a stop motion film, it runs incredibly smoothly. The characters’ fluid movements and their lifelike expressions make it easy to forget you are watching puppets. The painstaking animations took 55 weeks to shoot and up to 14 different puppets for the main characters. The same big names that occur in many other Tim Burton movies also appear in *The Corpse Bride*. Victor, the nervous Englishman, is played by Johnny Depp, who also had a lead role in *Sweeney Todd* and *Edward Scissorhands*. The Corpse Bride was voiced by Helena Bonham-Carter, who played opposite of Depp in *Sweeney Todd*, as well as made an appearance in Burton’s *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

I strongly believe that this is one of Burton’s best movies, yet it seldom gets any recognition. As a Claymation film – especially since it’s directed by Burton – it is constantly being compared to his 1993 classic *Nightmare*. Sure, it’s going to be hard to measure up when compared with those standards, but when looked at through a different lens, *The Corpse Bride* has absolutely spellbinding moments, making it one of Burton’s best in recent years.

Men's Basketball Keeps Fighting

By Bisrat Desta
Sports Writer

If you did not attend the Saint Joseph's College vs McKendree University basketball game then you missed out on one of the highest scoring games of the season. In this season this far, this seemed to be the game to watch. There was a total of 179 points scored between the two teams. The Pumas also had their best shooting performance of the season, shooting 58% from the field and 46% from behind the arc, while also going 10-13 from the free throw line.

The Pumas scored the first basket of the game, which was shortly answered by the Bearcats. However, the Pumas refused to hold back and answered with a three from sophomore Corey Clifton. Saint Joe did not look back after that, as they maintained the lead for the remainder of the game.

They finished the first half with a season high of 62% shooting from the field. "It felt good to have a good shooting game like that," said senior Michael Lipton, the starting point guard for the Pumas. The Bearcats entered the second half down by 16 but had no answer for the Puma's unrelenting offense.

The remainder of the second half did not improve for McKendree, as the Pumas still had the hot shooting hand and went up by 21 points. The Bearcats tried, but could not chip away at the lead the Pumas posted. The final score ended up being 99-80, adding a W to the Puma schedule.

The Bearcats could not match the Pumas elite shooting, with



Sophomore Ryan Rebholz went 6 for 7 from the arc against the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, finishing up with 20 points. Rebholz was an integral part of the comeback against the Rangers. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.

41% from the field and 36% from deep. For McKendree, Mike DiGregorio had the most points for the Bearcats scoring 26 points, Jon Steppe added 5 assists, and Clinton Happe had a stellar game scoring 20 points and grabbing 9 rebounds.

For the Pumas, senior Damon Ellison gave a major contribution, scoring 26 points while shooting 10-12 from the field. Senior Dayvon Sloan had 9 assists and chipped in with 11 points. Ellison, and Sloan have been the go-to guys to get important buckets for the Pumas all season long and it was no different in this game against McKendree. This dynamic duo provides the top scorers for Saint Joe, and are big contributors on the offensive end in general.

After this solid win at home against McKendree, the Pumas matched up against the University of Wisconsin-Parkside on

Thursday, January 31st.

The UWP Rangers scored first in the game, but only after two minutes of scoreless action. The Pumas fought, but entered halftime down 40-31.

Saint Joe got down 13 points, until sophomore Ryan Rebholz scored a three, motivating the Pumas to a 19 point run, taking the lead. The Rangers tied it up to end the second half 72-72.

The teams battled through not only the first overtime, but a second and third as well. The Pumas ended the game losing 109-99.

Against UWP, Sloan scored 25 points and had 11 assists. Rebholz scored 20 points, going six for seven from the three point line. Jon Smith ended the game with 11 rebounds, and Lipton contributed offensively with 12 points. What perhaps kept the Pumas in the game was their

94.4% free throw percentage.

The Pumas went on the road to face Lewis University on February 2nd, and added a loss to their record.

Going straight into another matchup against McKendree, this time away, the Pumas have a record of 5-13 overall and 3-8 in conference play. At this point they need to get on a winning streak to have a chance at making the tournament. They will also need Ellison and Sloan, their leading scorers to continue their stellar play and shooting to get these wins. With the emergence of underclassmen like Clifton and Rebholz, St. Joe should finish the season out on a good note.

Hopefully the Pumas will turn around their two game losing streak against McKendree. They are back home on February 14th against Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Upcoming Games

February 7th

Women's Basketball @ McKendree University
5:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball @ McKendree University
7:30 p.m.

February 8th

Track and Field @ Grand Valley State University "Big Meet"

February 9th

Men's Basketball @ Bellarmine University
1:00 pm

Women's Basketball @ Bellarmine University
3:00 pm

February 14th

Men's Basketball vs Kentucky Wesleyan
5:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs Kentucky Wesleyan
7:30 p.m.

February 16th

Men's Basketball vs University of Southern Indiana
5:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs University of Southern Indiana
7:30

Lady Pumas Continue to Struggle

By Katie Guernsey
Sports Editor

The Lady Puma basketball squad hasn't seen a very good season so far. They currently hold a 1-18 record, going 0-11 in conference play. Hopefully the team can rally and end their 11 game losing streak against the McKendree University Bearcats on February 7th.

The singular win of the year came against Oakland City University Mighty Oaks. Just

three days after Christmas, the ladies came out hard, ending the first half with a 35-28 lead. They kept this lead throughout the second half for a final victory of 79-57.

Against Oakland City, junior Lexy Carson scored 22 points. Sophomore Kiki Wilson was right behind Carson with 21 points. Freshman Courtney Kvachkoff ended with 10 points and 7 rebounds, being outrebounded by only sophomore Zoe Weaver, who finished with 10.

This win came before conference season began but unfortunately it did not give the Pumas the momentum they needed to start their conference season off right.

Against Drury University the Pumas shot well in the first half, heading to the locker room after junior Jasmyne Reynolds snatched a three at the buzzer. The three pointer from Reynolds put St. Joe up 37-33. However, St. Joe could not hold onto this

lead in the second half, and ended up losing the game 81-71. This is the closest the Pumas have come to a victory in the season thus far.

In their last match up the Pumas lost to Lewis University. Despite the loss, the team fought hard throughout, going down 38-16 at halftime. The second half at first seemed to not be much better, with the Flyers at one point achieving a 28 point lead.

The ladies gave their best effort though, and cut the lead back to 50-42 on a 10 point run. Due to

Lewis free throws and a couple of missed opportunities for the Pumas, the game ended in a 67-56 loss.

The Lady Pumas face up away against McKendree next, Bellarmine University on February 9th, and then are back at home on the 14th to play Kentucky Wesleyan College. The last match up against KWC added a 65-48 loss onto the record. Hopefully the team can earn some love with a win on Valentine's Day.



Left: Freshman Kiki Wilson out-dribbles a player from the University of Indianapolis. Wilson has 261 points, 62 assists, and 68 rebounds this season.

Photo courtesy of Fr. McFarland, C.P.P.S.

Right: Junior Jasmyne Reynolds looks to pass the ball. Reynolds has scored 144 points, 6 assists, and 49 rebounds in the season so far.

Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.



Pumas Attack the Track at IPFW

By JJ Miller
Sports Editor

At IPFW, the Pumas showed how much hard work they’ve put into the season thus far, as they reach the halfway point in the Indoor Track and Field season. With their fourth meet of the season under their belts, the Pumas are looking strong. Standout returners and a solid freshman class have shown that Saint Joseph’s College is going to be a contender in the GLVC this season.

For the men, this hasn’t been more true than the return of sophomore Logan Barrett. After having knee surgery during the fall, he’s back dominating the distance scene, along with fellow sophomore Pat Massoels and Junior Richard Kaht. In the 5,000 meter run, Barrett and Kaht took first and third, respectively, in times of 15:12.71 and 15:38.60, while in the 3,000 meter run, Massoels took first with a time of 9:11.96. In the mile, senior Brian Witt and junior Corey Dowds took second and third, running

within almost a tenth of a second from one another at 4:41.06 and 4:41.17, respectively. The 800 meter run had a similar story, this time with senior Luke McRoberts and junior Mike Fauser. McRoberts claimed the top spot in the event, running a 1:59.09, while Fauser took second with a time of 1:59.63.

In the field events, two freshman talents had a chance to shine. CJ Eikum took top honors in the high jump with a jump of 1.85 meters, and third in the long jump with a jump of 6.05 meters. Fellow freshman Kevin Bauers took 4th in the shot put with a throw of 13.76 meters, while in the weight throw, seniors Alan Austin and Kris Pappert took third and fourth with throws of 14.86 and 13.27 meters, respectively.

On the women’s side, sophomore Sam Nirva led the team with a first place finish in the 60 meter hurdles, running a time of 9.05 in the finals. She also took third in the long jump with a jump of 1.50 meters. Senior Kelli Lipold took second in the 5,000 meter run with her time of

19:40.28. Freshman Alex Meier took third in the 400 meter dash with her time of 1:01.69, while in the 800, junior Katie Deboy took third in that event with her time of 2:27.14. sophomore Danielle Perkins also claimed a third-place finish in the 200 meter dash with

her time of 26.74. In the field events for the women, freshman Heather Monk took third place in the shot put with her throw of 12.63m, while in the weight throw, the women swept third through sixth. Senior Taylor Nielsen took third with her

throw of 14.01 meters. The Pumas will be back in action this weekend at Grand Valley State’s Big Meet, in preparation for the GLVC Championship meet, which is February 22nd and 23rd at the University of Indianapolis.

Sophomore Logan Barrett is back and healthy. Barrett ran a 15:12 5,000 to claim top honors in that event. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.



Why Ray Lewis is Amazing

By Corey Dowds
Guest Writer

Moses, Jesus Christ, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, Picasso, Thomas Paine, Leonarda Divinci, Ray Lewis. All of these men have something in common: They met a million faces in their respective lives, and they ROCKED them all. Great men, marked by great achievements. One of these great men has done something that they all strived to do: become NFL champions, via winning the Super Bowl. It is hard to say which one of these men have accomplished the most in their lives, but Ray Lewis has been in the NFL for 17 seasons. I think a little story is the best way to illustrate Ray Lewis’ life.

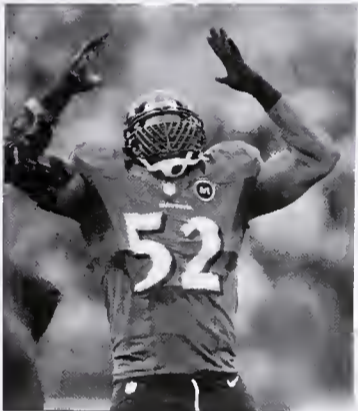
On day one there was Ray Lewis. On this day he sacked a man named Jim Harbough, and Lewis said “I will beat you in a Super Bowl and your brother will help me.” AND THAT

HAPPENED. First he won another Super Bowl, which, I guess is a pretty big deal. That is pretty much Ray Lewis’ life in a nutshell. Of course, there was a lot of other little details in-between.

Perhaps the biggest detail was the misnomer that Ray Lewis actually murdered a person! Well, let me tell you what happened. So, a thug first tried to rob his wife, to which Ray Lewis responded “while I disagree with your life choices my son, I understand that the circumstances of your life thus far have more or less forced you into this behavior.” The thief, distorted and confused by His grace, said, “Well your mother wears combat boots.” Lewis then responded with “Go in peace my son, so I do not tackle you in the backfield for a loss like I have done so many times before.” The thief then dove at Lewis ala Scar in The

Lion King, jealous and envious of Lewis’ swagger, in an attempt to destroy the perfect defender. Then, Lewis actually vibrated his atoms so quickly that he became intangible, with the thief flowing right through who many refer to “He who masks his coverages so well.” The thief, because of his own momentum, fell off a cliff and into the fiery abyss where he joined the likes of Joseph Stalin and the dark lord Beelzebub. The corruption of America’s judicial system pondered at Lewis’s 4 TD career in amazement, along with the incident itself. Eventually Lewis converted the entire House of Representatives, The Senate, and The President of the United States to their respective religions that fit their personality and ideals. He was also acquitted of the charges.

Then, Lewis was accused of cheating when he fused with the peaceful chi of a deer. Of



course, he was simply channeling the power of nature, but again people become envious of “He who hits the hardest in the history of the universe.” Of course, these allegations are from the darkest corners and chambers of evil known to man. Ray Lewis is impervious from outward criticism, allegations, forces of evil and lies, and most importantly, competent passers such as Peyton Manning and Tom

Brady. I would like to end this article by saying this: Ray Lewis is undeniably a top five player in the history of the NFL. nay, THE UNIVERSE. Well, maybe not the universe, but surely the NFL. He draws his power from faith, which is pretty cool, in some ways. He actually beat God in a game of poker one time, which isn’t even a statistic in the NFL! He has made “The Most Interesting Man in the World” feel self-conscious. He’s never been hung-over. He anchored the goal line stand to win the Super Bowl. He actually created a “Heaven” level in Call of Duty, where players just talk to each other instead of shooting! He ended the feud between Coke and Pepsi. He has inspired many, including Super Bowl adversary and counterpart Patrick Willis, to wear his No. 52. He inspires people of all denominations of faith. He is, undeniably, amazing.

Puma Athlete Profile



By: Katie Guernsey
Sports Editor

Mike Lipton is a senior Accounting major from Crown Point, Indiana. He is a guard on the basketball team.

When did you realize you wanted to play basketball?
“When I was 4 years old my parents said that I would play on my Fischer Price hoop all day long, so it was a given.”

What’s your favorite part of the game?
“The first couple plays of the game because I love to bring energy and start the game off right.”

If Hollywood made a movie of your life, who would play you?
“Brad Pitt or Channing Tatum. The looks. Haha!”

If you were a type of food what would you be?
“Probably barbeque ribs. So good!”

What do you think of garden gnomes?
“I have a Santa Claus wearing a Chicago Bears gnome and it scares me but GO BEARS!”

What is in your refrigerator right now?
“Water, Gatorade, fruit, and Go-gurt. Lame, I know.”

Boxers or Briefs?
“Briefs for sure.”

What sandwich do you get at Subway?
“Foot long on wheat bread with ham, lettuce, tomatoes,

pickles, mustard, and mayo. So fresh!”

Where would you go in a time machine?
“To the pre-historic era. I want to see a dinosaur.”

What kind of socks do you prefer?
“Nike. They are comfy and you just got to do it.”

Know someone that deserves the spotlight? Let us know! E-mail their name and sport to kgt8533@saintjoe.edu or fnt8451@saintjoe.edu.

Fountain Stone
Theaters

Movies for February 7th

(219) 866-2222
fountainstonetheaters.com

Hansel and Gretel: Witch
Hunters (R)
4:25

Hansel and Gretel: Witch
Hunters 3D (R)
6:50

Lincoln (PG13)
4:15, 6:05

Mama (PG13)
4:40, 6:40

The Last Stand (R)
4:30, 6:30

Warm Bodies (PG13)
5:00, 6:45

Coming Soon:
Identity Thief (R), Beautiful
Creatures (PG13), A Good
Day to Die Hard (R), Safe
Haven (PG13)

The Ritz Cinema

Movie for
February 8th-14th
(219) 866-0086
www.ritzcinema.net
All movies begin at 7:00 M-F
Matinees every day 2:00

Jack Reacher (PG13)

Kindhearted Kat and Giddy
Gloria Give Advice

Have questions for Giddy Gloria and Kindhearted Kat? E-mail them to rpt8460@saintjoe.edu!

Dear Kindhearted Kat and Giddy Gloria:
For the first time in my life, I am too wanted. By this, I mean that there are a couple of guys that are pursuing me and, well, I'm just not interested. The problem is, I have a really hard time letting people down. How can I send a clear message without being mean?
Sincerely,
Too Nice

Dear Too Nice,
You don't have to be mean to decline someone. Just be upfront. Tell these guys that you would rather be their friend or that you are simply not interested. That's not being mean, that's called being straightforward. Beware of the guys that get angry and are not understanding; they do not take rejection well. If you have been

upfront with them and have not led them on, their reactions are not your fault, but their own. Honesty really is the best policy in this type of scenario. Lying about seeing someone else, about being done with dating or not being over your ex could really backfire. Either you and one or more of these guys have mutual friends and they find out you weren't being honest or you find a guy you really do like and he holds back because he heard that that you're unavailable, not interested or not over your ex. Best of luck!
Sincerely,
Giddy Gloria

Dear Kindhearted Kat and Giddy Gloria:
There is a guy I have a crush on, and I really want to know if he likes me back, but I am too afraid to ask. What do I do?
Sincerely,

Hopeful
Dear Hopeful,
Well you could go with the "having your friends ask around and find out," but that is such a middle school thing to do. If you really do like this guy, make yourself known around him, drop some hints. Maybe he'll pick up on them, and if he doesn't maybe you should just try the direct approach and ask. If you do not want to be so direct, then just ask him to hang out. Get to know him, and let him get to know you and see where it goes!
Sincerely,
Kindhearted Kat

Dear Kindhearted Kat and Giddy Gloria,
This semester has been incredibly busy for me. Between classes, work, and clubs, I hardly have time for anything else. I

feel very distant from my friends. Whenever they do something, I am either too busy or they don't invite me because they assume I am too busy. How do I manage to juggle my social and academic life?
Sincerely,
Left Out

Dear Left Out,
Life sometimes and get too hectic and we just need to step back, and have some fun. Maybe you could try limiting the clubs you're involved in or just limit your credits if you feel so overwhelmed. Yes, school should come first, but you need to have fun and relax. Another alternative could be have your friends join in the club that you're in so then you get to spend time with each other!
Sincerely,
Kindhearted Kat

Over
Heard

Heard something crazy or scandalous in the cafeteria or around campus?
E-mail rpt8460 with your anonymous submission! You may see it in the next issue.

"Ew. That's not my band-aid."
"Just so you know, most of our conversations tend to revolve around pooping."
"What does that say? Is that wingdings?"
Person 1: "The many words that free flow from the mouth of a hillbilly is a beautiful thing. It's like the birth of a baby."
Person 2: "You're nuts."
"Have you ever heard the expression slicker than snot? I hadn't before this morning!"

This Week's
Creative Stuff
from Saint Joseph's very own Creative
Writers

Attention Creative Writers! Do you write poetry? Draw cartoons? This section is specifically FOR YOU! If you have something you'd like published in the paper, e-mail it to rpt8460!

Rain, Rain
By Randee Portteus

You and I begin and end with rain.
A romantic, ambiguous statment
that sums up my love life.
It's always the rain,
jumping in puddles,
messing around.
The beginning.

And when it hurts, it always rains.
When I cry
the sky does, too.
We begin and end with rain.
I hope it doesn't rain again.
Because I really don't want
you and I
to end.

The Weekly How To
By Mike Sosnowski

How To Survive The Cold

Unfortunately our January heat wave has run out, folks. You know what that means – back to frigid temperatures. But fret not because I'm going to tell you how to survive the cold.
Step one is to hibernate. Eight weeks of sleep is the best defense against the bitter cold of the winter. It's simple, too. All you have to do is start eating everything in sight. And best to start now. I'd say you need about one or two pounds of food every twenty minutes or so. You have to bulk up to make it. Once you got some meat on your bones it's time to crawl into bed and stay there until the Earth moves and the heat returns.
What's that you say? You don't think your professors will let you sleep for eight weeks? Well fear not, that's what step two is for. Step two is of course to grow a thick winter's coat. It shouldn't be too hard just stop shaving and invest heavily in Rogaine. Hair is a great insulator and will keep you comfortable for the next few weeks. Plus it's super easy to reverse the effects of.
Okay, so you don't think fur will help you impress while going out. Well that leaves you with one option. Bundle up. And I mean cover everything. If you're not like the kid from A Christmas Story then you're doing it wrong. You should be able to roll to class. And don't worry about looking silly, nobody will be able to tell who you are under all those layers anyhow.
Now if you excuse me, I must return to my bed for a few more weeks.